

GOD HAS A PLAN FOR YOU!

When we are going through something, we need to ask the Lord what he wants to show us, what he wants to become to us. God has an ultimate purpose in mind that he desires to outwork in us through the situations that we find ourselves in.

Psalm 37: ²³The steps (a step, footstep. The word is used of the way a person's life unfolds, picturesquely as one walks along a path by moving his or her feet .The Lord orders peoples' steps as they go through life) *of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*

Rom 8: ²⁸And we know that all things (the totality or the whole) *work together* (occurring now, to work together to contribute to a goal) *for good* (in respect to operation or influence) *to them that love God, to them who are the called according* (the object toward which something aims) *to his purpose* (determined plan). ²⁹*For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate* (to predetermine, decide beforehand, God decreeing from eternity) *to be conformed* (together with-to form, to bring into harmony having the same identity) *to the image* (the perfect expression and representation) *of his Son* (full grown).

We find ourselves in situations that put pressure upon us to enable us to leave the human realm and appropriate His fullness, pressures to drive us into Him.

We find ourselves in situations that we cannot deal with, so we have to look to the lord, to experience the flow of His Spirit within.

There is a kingdom realm inside of us, in which we experience the peace and rest of God and in which revelation of His will flows into our spirit, so that we can perceive what is troubling us and how to overcome it.

1 Corinthians 10: ¹³There hath no temptation (Trial, temptation, a putting to the test) *taken* (lay hold upon) *you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape* (out of-to go), *that ye may be able to bear*(bear up under in the sense of patiently endure) *it.*

God says He will not allow us to be tested above what we are able to bear, because He makes a way of escape so that we may be able to bear it. We cannot bear it in ourselves; we are totally dependent upon Him. We have a problem that is beyond our wisdom to solve. We find ourselves in a situation that is a little above our spiritual development to handle.

With the problem comes the provision. The problem points to the provision. The answer is there; but when we stretch for it, we cannot quite reach it. We are being stretched, but we know the answer is there.

When we are tempted above our capacities to resist, then we must reach into the Lord because we are unable to meet the temptation in ourselves. This, then, is the way of escape: we appropriate a little more of the Lord. When the temptation has passed, there is a greater residue of the divine nature in us. He drives us into Himself by making it impossible for us to remain on our present level. Growth becomes a necessity; we must grow. People grow in the grace and the knowledge of the Lord because they are pressured into it (2 Peter 3:18).

For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren. Romans 8:29. God has a plan and a program. The Lord is not going to stop dealing with us until we are completely conformed to the

image of His Son. He is the first-born among many brethren, and we shall be like Him (1 John 3:2).

Can we believe that one day we will be just like the Lord? Yes, we can believe that because He became just like us. He was in all points tempted just as we are (Hebrews 4:15). That means He became just like us in order that we can become just like Him—completely conformed to the image of God's dear Son.

God's plan for us is a big one. That is the reason we do not go to church just to get a little inspiration. When we start walking with God, He puts us through a number of tests, and we become very discouraged. That is the idea. We must come to the limits of human encouragement and reach into the Lord.

We are not driven into a corner to see if we will find hidden resources within us and turn and fight, like a rat. Rather, He puts us in a place where we no longer have what the situation requires so that we will reach in and appropriate something from Him. This is the way the divine nature comes.

The whole purpose of God must ever be in our mind. Though we may be deeply convinced that the sufferings we are going through are terrible, if we will look ahead to see what God is trying to work in our life, we will come to the conclusion that the suffering of this present time, whatever He orders for our life, is not to be compared with the glory to come.

When we open our heart to the Lord, someone else is taking over. We are no longer our own person. We become aware that God is working out a destiny. He has a plan, and He has a program or process to bring to pass that plan. He is not working it sovereignly to force us to

conform. He works a willingness in us. *For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* Philippians 2:13.

When God gets hold of us, and our willingness is falling short, He has a way of making us willing. When we become very willing to do His will, then through the infilling of His Spirit we are enabled to do it. He works in us both the will and the performance of the will.

The sons of God, who will be manifested in loosing creation from futility, have available to them steps that can be taken right now, to bring them into a maturity where they begin to respond with the divine nature. As we learn how to overcome impossible odds, through appropriating more of the Lord, we are growing up into him. The more we become like the Lord through the pathway of intimacy, the more we can begin to walk in the pathway of responsibility in the government of the kingdom.